

Coins

Bill gets stamped 'Hawaii' and stumps bank employe

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE more answers to questions from Tribune readers:

Q—While working in a bank, I found a \$20 bill with the word "Hawaii" stamped on both sides. What is its significance?—M.S., Chicago Heights

A—During World War II, currency made for Pacific islands owned by the United States was overprinted with the word "Hawaii" as a precaution. If the Japanese had invaded Hawaii, those overprinted bills would have been made worthless by the U.S. government for obvious security reasons.

Q—Do the Bicentennial quarters found in circulation have any extra value to collectors?—B.M. of Chicago, A.R. of Oak Lawn, and others

A—No. The government made nearly 1.7 billion Bicentennial quarters, enough to satisfy collector demands for decades. The coins feature a dual date, 1776-1976, and a Colonial drummer boy.

Q—My wife has a 1978-D penny that looks like a nickel in color, rather than a Lincoln cent. Is it unusual?—C.F., Hinsdale

A—Possibly. Workers at the United States Mint occasionally make coins out of the wrong metal by mistake. For example, perhaps a metal disk that was

supposed to be engraved into a dime was used instead to produce your cent. Such error coins are worth at least \$50 to collectors.

On the other hand, some businessmen plate common-date coins with nickel, silver, or other metal as a sales gimmick. They usually have no collector value. Take your cent to a coin dealer or another expert for evaluation.

Q—I've been told that it is illegal to photograph money. Do you know the rules?—A.S., Chicago

A—Coins may be photographed without restriction. To guard against counterfeiting, pictures of paper money must be in black and white, and be either less than three-fourths or more than 1½ times the size of the actual bills.

Q—Two days ago, I got in change a 1964 nickel with a "grooved edge" (like on a dime or quarter) rather than a smooth edge as is normal for nickels. What went wrong with my coin?—K.H., Chicago

A—Someone working in a machine shop doctored your nickel. It has no collector value.

Have questions about coins or currency? Send them to Roger Boye, Arts & Fun, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a personal reply.